

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-02 OIC-02 SNM-02 AGR-05

CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-01 H-01 INR-07

INT-05 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 AID-05

CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-01 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01

SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01 /096 W
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P R 101256Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 747

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY BELIZE

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, XL, GY

SUBJECT: TRADE REFORM ACT - GSP

REF: (A) STATE 282967 (B) STATE 282968

1. CHARGE AND ECONOFF CALLED ON CARICOM SEC GEN MCINTYRE TODAY (1/9) TO DISCUSS INTER ALIA TRA AND POSSIBLE APPROACHES CARICOM MEMBERS WILL MAKE TO USG FOR BENEFICIARY STATUS UNDER TITLE V. MCINTYRE FIRST EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT AT FIFTY PERCENT MINIMUM ORIGIN PROVISION FOR TRADE GROUP BENEFICIARIES. HE AGREED THAT INDIVIDUAL MEMBER COUNTRIES OF CARICOM SHOULD BE APPROACHED BY RESPECTIVE U.S. EMBASSY OFFICIALS TO CARRY OUT INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN IN PARA TEN OF REF (A).

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2. MCINTYRE THEN INQUIRED WHETHER INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES WITHIN CARICOM CAN APPLY FOR BENEFICIARY STATUS USING SEPARATE GSP PRODUCTS LISTS WHICH MEET THIRTY-FIVE PERCENT MINIMUM AND ALSO APPLY FOR BENEFICIARY STATUS TOGETHER UNDER CARICOM USING UNIFIED LIST OF DIFFERENT PRODUCTS, WHICH NOW HAVE OR WILL HAVE FIFTY PERCENT OR MORE OF THEIR ORIGIN WITH CARICOM. SINCE FEDERAL REGULATIONS ARE YET TO BE PUBLISHED ECONOFF DID NOT RPT NOT ADVANCE OPINION ON THIS BUT SAID WOULD PASS INQUIRY ON TO DEPT FOR INFORMAL OPINION.

3. ON CARTEL RESTRICTION, 502 (B) (2), ECONOFF FOLLOWED GUIDELINES IN PARA FIVE REF(A), AND SUGGESTED IN REPLY TO MCINTYRE QUERY, THAT MEMBERSHIP IN INTERNATIONAL BAUXITE ASSOCIATION (IBA) WOULD PROBABLY NOT RPT NOT AT THIS TIME BE CONSIDERED AS DISQUALIFYING SINCE ORGANIZATION HAS NOT RPT NOT TAKEN ANY ACTION TO RESTRICT SHIPMENTS OR RAISE PRICES. DID NOT RPT NOT RULE OUT POSSIBILITY THAT FUTURE ACTIONS OF IBA MIGHT DISQUALIFY MEMBERS.

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT UNLESS ARRANGEMENT SUCH AS DESCRIBED IN PARA TWO CAN BE WORKED OUT, CARICOM MEMBERS WILL APPLY INDIVIDUALLY FOR BENEFICIARY STATUS, PERHAPS USING UNIFIED LIST. FYI. ENXASSY SEES NO SPECIFIC PROHIBITION OF DUAL STATUS IN TITLE V LEGISLATION. IN FACT, WORDING OF PENULTIMATE SENTENCE IN SEC. 503 (B) (2) (B) APPEARS TO ENABLE DUAL STATUS. EFFECT OF GRANTING SUCH STATUS WOULD MAKE GSP FAR MORE MEANINGFUL FOR SMALLER COUNTRIES WITHIN CARICOM WHICH ALONE COULD NOT RPT NOTMEET EVEN MORE LENIENT THIRTY-FIVE PERCENT ORIGIN RULE. END FYI.

5. UNLESS DEPT OBJECTS, EMBASSY PLANS TO APPROACH GOG PER REF A PARA TEN, AND SUGGEST THAT INDIVIDUAL APPLICATION FOR BENEFICIARY STATUS NEED NOT RPT NOT NECESSARILY PREJUDICE FUTURE APPLICATION OF CARICOM AS REPRESENTATIVE OF ASSOCIATION OF COUNTRIES. ASSUME INFO POSTS WILL DO LIKEWISE WITH HOST GOVTS.

6. ACTION REQUEST: WOULD APPRECIATE SOONEST DEPT VIEW ON PARU TWO INQUIRY, AS WELL AS GUIDANCE ON APPROACH TO HOST GOVERNMENT. MATTHEWS

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